

I claim:

1. A winding apparatus for winding an elongated cargo strap into a coil, which is used with a strap winch that is mounted beneath a trailer, where the strap winch includes a U-shaped bracket having two spaced legs connected by an integral cross member and a drum suspended between the legs around which the cargo strap is wound and tensioned,

the winding apparatus comprising: an elongated cantilever; and a removable crank,

the cantilever having a first end and a second end, the first end of the cantilever being adapted for mounting to the strap winch in a plurality of selected positions, so that the second end of the cantilever extends beyond the trailer when the cantilever is connected to the strap winch, the second end of the cantilever being adapted for receiving the crank in a winding position, so that the crank may be manually turned to wind the cargo strap into the coil around the crank.

2. The winding apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the cantilever includes sides having a plurality of scallops formed along a bottom edge thereof, the first end of the cantilever restrictively held to the strap winch with the drum seating within one of the plurality of scallops when the cantilever is mounted to the strap winch, whereby the plurality of scallops constitutes means for selectively seating the cantilever to the strap winch in one of a plurality of mounting positions.

3. The winding apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the second end of the cantilever includes a pair of spaced ears, each of the pair of ears has an opening therein for receiving the crank, whereby the cargo strap is wound around the crank into the coil between the pair of ears when the crank is fitted to the second end of the cantilever and manually turned.

4. The winding apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the crank includes an elongated shaft, a handle extending from the shaft, and an elongated strap bar extending from and space axially parallel over the shaft.

5. The winding apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the first end of the cantilever also being adapted for receiving the crank in a storage position therein when not used to wind the cargo strap into the coil.

6. The winding apparatus of Claim 5 wherein the first end of the cantilever

includes a first plate and a second plate, each of the first plate and the second plate having an opening therethrough, the crank extends through the openings in the first and second plates when in the storage position.

7. The winding apparatus of Claim 6 wherein the cantilever also includes a side, the side having two detents protruding therefrom,

the crank includes an elongate shaft, a handle extending from the shaft, and an elongated strap bar extending from and spaced axially parallel over the shaft,

the strap bar overlying the side and restrictively seated between the two detents to secure the crank to the cantilever when in the storage position.

8. In combination, a strap winch mounted beneath a trailer and including a U-shaped bracket having two spaced legs connected by an integral cross member and a drum suspended between the legs around which the cargo strap is wound and tensioned; and

a winding apparatus used in association with the strap winch for winding the cargo straps into a coil and including an elongated cantilever and a removable crank, the cantilever having a first end and a second end, the first end of the cantilever being adapted for mounting to the strap winch in a plurality of selected positions, so that the second end of the cantilever extends beyond the trailer when the cantilever is connected to the strap winch, the second end of the cantilever being adapted for receiving the crank in a winding position, so that the crank may be manually turned to wind the cargo strap into the coil around the crank.

9. The winding apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the cantilever includes sides having a plurality of scallops formed along a bottom edge thereof, the first end of the cantilever restrictively held to the strap winch with the drum seating within one of the plurality of scallops when the cantilever is mounted to the strap winch, whereby the plurality of scallops constitutes means for selectively seating the cantilever to the strap winch in one of a plurality of mounting positions.

10. The winding apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the second end of the cantilever includes a pair of spaced ears, each of the pair of ears has an opening therein for receiving the crank, whereby the cargo strap is wound around the crank into the coil between the

pair of ears when the crank is fitted to the second end of the cantilever and manually turned.

11. The winding apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the crank includes an elongated shaft, a handle extending from the shaft, and an elongated strap bar extending from and spaced axially parallel over the shaft.

12. The winding apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the first end of the cantilever also being adapted for receiving the crank in a storage position therein when not used to wind the cargo strap into the coil.

13. The winding apparatus of Claim 12 wherein the first end of the cantilever includes a first plate and a second plate, each of the first plate and the second plate having an opening therethrough, the crank extends through the openings in the first and second plates when in the storage position.

14. The winding apparatus of Claim 13 wherein the cantilever also includes a side, the side having two detents protruding therefrom,

the crank includes an elongate shaft, a handle extending from the shaft, and an elongated strap bar extending from and spaced axially parallel over the shaft,

the strap bar overlying the side and restrictively seated between the two detents to secure the crank to the cantilever when in the storage position.